

school library should be the place through which the engineering student can find trade catalogues, the producer for the dramatic society can get illustrations of costume, the girl doing domestic science can consult tables of calorific values, the Debating Society can discover the truth about India, and the boy with a facile pencil be introduced to the drawing of cartoons, just as much as the place through which the fifteen-year-old who has just discovered Jane Austen, and the Sixth-Former who wants a volume of the Cambridge Modern History, can find satisfaction.

It is not only in Utopia or America these things can be. If we really want them we can

get them in New Zealand. But so long as finance depends upon the whim of School Committees, and what is left of the profits of the school concert after the Sports Club has taken the lion's share, school libraries will continue to be the most unequal of all the component parts of the life and work of different schools, and the general standard will remain scandalously low. In a country which spends £2 17s. 11d. per head of population per year on education, can we afford to save the few extra pennies which are necessary to provide a good school library service and which would add so much to the value obtained for the whole of educational expenditure?

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Hon. Editor :

Sir,—I have read with interest the articles on Library training in NEW ZEALAND LIBRARIES, October, 1940, and before commenting on the question as such, I should like, as a diplomate of the London University School of Librarianship, to say something of the character of the training there given. I fear that Dr. Allen may be somewhat misinformed.

The technical side of librarianship, under the guidance of Mr. J. D. Cowley—cataloguing, classification, bibliography, book selection, reference work, library administration, library routine—was to my mind very well catered for. The practical classes and seminars in each of these subjects, the projects and exercises set week by week, together with the varied three-weeks' course of work as a library assistant in London public and private libraries, finished off by a thesis, *i.e.*, the compilation of a fair length bibliography—all these during the session 1937-38 gave me a most favourable opinion of the work done by the School. This applied particularly, I think, to cataloguing.

Everything I learnt in London, with the possible exception of studies in Palaeography and English library law, has been of practical value since I returned, and I have been happy, as a tutor in the Canterbury branch of the N.Z.L.A., to pass on to other library assistants something of what I have gained.

My experience abroad and my tutoring work this last year lead me to agree that the question of library training in New Zealand has progressed beyond the merely academic stage.

Now that conditions in the Northern Hemisphere are becoming more unstable and

communications therewith more uncertain, it would appear that new arrangements for library training are not only desirable but almost necessitous. Last-minute but inevitable cancellations of the Library Association examinations and continually delayed arrival of the papers certainly tend to disorganise regular study, as any library assistant can vociferously explain.

After some consideration of the matter, I agree with Mr. Miller that the N.Z.L.A. should issue its own Diploma, although it could require candidates to pass the university examinations in certain subjects. As Mr. Miller points out, it is unlikely that the "university would be willing to take on the job." It would be as well to remember in this connection that university courses are compiled on a three- to four-year plan of study, and that Stage I, for instance, in any subject merely covers one-third or a quarter of the ground.

Also I feel that most graduates themselves would question Dr. Allen's supposition that "the university would be helpful in furthering any plan which would increase the avenues of employment of its graduates."

A certain amount of tutoring is already carried on, certainly so in Christchurch, preparing candidates for the L.A. examinations. Instead of starting up any interim scheme, such as sketched by Mr. Wilson, would it not be better to keep things as they are until the N.Z.L.A. could get its own scheme properly started. What experience the tutors have already gained is at the disposal of the profession. Even now we could perhaps pool our composite knowledge. Surely, among eleven F.L.A.'s and eight A.L.A.'s, we could parcel

out certain topics, so that notes with reading syllabi could be cyclostyled and sent to the main centres for the use of the library candidates.

If the N.Z.L.A. can sponsor the training of New Zealand librarians, and draw up a syllabus that can not only meet with the peculiar needs of this Dominion but can also, in standards of scholarship knowledge and

technique, compare favourably with the profession abroad, then can anything be gained by unnecessary delay?

Looking forward to the realisation of such a training scheme,—Yours, etc.,

G. LILIAN JEFFREYS,

Assistant Librarian,
Canterbury University College.

REVIEWS.

THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION. "The Subject index to periodicals, 1939," London, L.A., 1940. XI., 539 pp.

This new volume under the general editorship of Mr. T. Rowland Powel, is in the tradition of its predecessors. 577 periodicals have been indexed in the usual co-operative manner, and the value of the current volume will readily be apparent. The Library Association, London, and all those assisting in the compilation of this volume are to be congratulated on completing the work in the present difficult times, and it is hoped that future issues will also be issued as usual. There has been an increase of 10 per cent. in price due to war conditions, the price now being £3/17/-.

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

"The Booklist," Volume 36, No. 22, part 2, August, 1940: Industrial Training for National Defence by Charles M. Mohrhardt.

This select list of up to date titles has been prepared for libraries, vocational and trade schools and for governmental agencies which are co-operating in the training for national defence programmes.

"POOR RICHARD'S BIBLOMAC." Vol. 1, No. 1, August 31, 1940.

"Poor Richard's Biblomag," a six-page sheet in newspaper form, is published monthly at \$3 a year by Burnstein and Chappe, 270 Lafayette Street, New York City. In the first editorial Mr. Burstein states "Poor Richard's Biblomag" reflects an idea we have—an idea that anyone whose stock-in-trade is books—the librarian, the bookseller, the publisher—has a function in a democratic society that means something more than delivering books from stack to reader." There are articles on burning questions in librarianship especially in connec-

tion with its relation to democracy, including one by the Librarian of Congress, Mr. Archibald McLeish. A feature is "A Guide to recently published but little publicised books for libraries and bookstores."

MULGAN, ALAN. "The City of the Strait." Ferguson & Osborne Ltd., Wellington, 15/-, 1940.

Mr. Alan Mulgan's work, sponsored by the Wellington Provincial Historical Committee, gives an epitome of the history, not only of the city of Wellington itself, but of the province from its earliest days. It covers the ground admirably in a concise and yet easily readable form and is enlivened with finely reproduced illustrations. The book is well bound and bears an attractive dust jacket.

"THE STANDARDIZATION OF TWO INTELLIGENCE TESTS," by Mary Redmond and F. R. J. Davies. New Zealand Council for Educational Research, printed by Whitcombe & Tombs Ltd. 129 pp.

This is an account of the standardization in New Zealand of two group tests of intelligence. The book is written for the layman as well as the specialist, and includes charts. Until recently the only intelligence tests available for use in New Zealand have been tests designed and standardized in other countries. the Otis Self-Administering, Intermediate Form A, and the Non-verbal Test devised by the Australian Council for Educational Research are tests here dealt with, supplementing the Australian conclusions already published.*

* McIntyre, G. A., "The Standardization of Intelligence Tests in Australia." Melbourne, Australian Council for Educational Research, 1938.